United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

CE-132
For HCRS use only received at the state entered
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and/or common	Elk Landi	ng						
2. Loca		0						
street & number	Landing L	ane				n/	a not for pubi	ication
city, town	Elkton		X vicir	nity of	congressional	district	First	
state	Maryland	code	24	county	Cecil		code	015
3. Clas	sificatio	n						_
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name street & number	See Conti	nuation S	Sheet No.	1				
city, town			vici	nity of		state		
5. Loca	ation of	Legal	Desc	riptio	on			
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Ced	il County	y Courth	ouse			
street & number		Eas	st Main S	treet				
city, town		Elk	tton			state	Maryland	21921
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CE-132

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Resources

Description

Contributing	Noncontributing	Number of previously listed
1	0buildings	National Register properties
	0sites	included in this nomination: 0
0	<u> </u>	Original and historic functions
0	<u> </u>	and uses: residential
1	<u> </u>	

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The house at Elk Landing is of stone construction, 21/2 stories high above a full basement, three bays wide by two bays deep, with a gable roof, located on the east side of Little Elk Creek near Elkton in Cecil County, Maryland. Sloping topography allows the basement story to be fully exposed on the west elevation, facing the creek; evidence suggests that the building's original orientation was west, toward the water. Both east and west elevations are fenestrated similarly, with an entrance in the central bay (this opening is filled with later stonework on the west) at ground-floor level, with windows in the flanking bays and a window in each bay of the second story. The facades are not rigidly symmetrical, as the central bay is offset slightly to the north. A former basement entrance on the west side has been closed with rubble infill. Surviving original window sash is 6/9 on the ground floor and 6/6 above. A doorway in the east bay of the north gable end formerly led into a log kitchen wing; presumably an earlier independent structure which local tradition identifies as the original residence and trading post of John Hanson Steelman, this log structure was demolished ca. 1905. The interior of the house is arranged in a center-hall plan. Three of the first-floor rooms are heated by corner fireplaces with diagonal hearths; the fireplaces in the two south rooms share a common chimney stack which exits at the ridge of the roof, while that in the northwest room is located in an exterior corner and vented at the eaves. These fireplaces retain paneled overmantels; two interior doors, and chair rail moldings in most of the rooms, may also be original to the house.

For General Description, see Contuation Sheet No. 1

OMB No. 1024-0018 Exp. 10-31-84

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Elk Landing Continuation sheet Cecil County, Maryland

Item number 4 and 7

Page

1

OWNERS:

John M. Young 9312 Memorial Way Tampa Florida 33615 Phone: 813-884-9784

Carleton M. Young 902 West Bay Avenue Lewes, Delaware 19958

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The stone house at Elk Landing is located in the fork of Big and Little Elk Creeks. It is the last house on Landing Lane, the thoroughfare leading southward from U. S. 40 and serving the Hollingsworth Manor subdivision.

The House is rectangular, two stories in height with an unpartitioned full basement and an unpartitioned full garret. Both finished stories exhibit a central-hall plan, three unequal bays wide and two equal bays deep. The exterior fabric is fieldstone, very roughly quoined but not consistently coursed. The north gable end is covered in stucco of apparent nineteenth century vintage. The gabled roof is supported by massive hewn rafters that are free-standing from plate to ridge.

Badly decayed wooden porches obscure most of the ground floor on the east facade, and on the north end. A doorway in the east bay of the north wall, formerly wider than it is now, led into a separate log structure which was demolished ca. 1905. This structure reputedly was the original dwelling of John Hanson Steelman and later the kitchen for the stone house (which has no cooking hearth built in). Besides the reduction in the size of this doorway, the same wall has another door cut onto the porch from the west bay, probably in this century. The doorway in the center of the east facade may be original, but it is likely that the stairway was on that wall; it is clearly not in its original position. All window locations, and most of their frames, appear to be original, except that the present small window in the center bay of the west wall has been patched into what was originally the lintel of the door fronting on the creek. That doorway has been almost completely filled with later stonework, as has a wide original doorway into the basement in the south bay of the same (west) wall. This feature very probably relates to the lading process, providing direct access into the basement from the creek.

The west wall of the basement has also seen substantial rebuilding in its north bay. The masonry inside the basement at this point does appear to be original; it supports the northwest corner fireplace, and is identical in design with that supporting both ground floor fireplaces in the south wall.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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Continuation sheet Cecil County, Maryland

Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The most unusual feature that is externally visible is the chimney over the northwest corner near the eaves. Its masonry above the ceiling of the second story, apparently a modern repair, consists of a small, nearly square brick flue, offset several inches to the east before it pierces the roof line. This does not match the stone masonry of the other, larger chimney (and of the rest of the structure).

The structure is devoid of external ornamentation intended as such.

A central hall cuts the floor plan from west to east. Doors open off this hall into two north and two south rooms. Stairs at the northwest corner of the hall turn across what was obviously the original front door.

The northwest room on the ground floor has the most formal paneling over its mantel and was perhaps the "parlor." The two corner fireplaces in the south wall also have paneled overmantels. The only fireplace opening on the second floor is in the southwest corner of the southeast room; it has no woodwork (though the chair rail halts as if it once did) and appears to have been modified slightly to accommodate an iron coal grate (now missing) during the late nineteenth century.

Most of the rooms have chair rails, none of which can with confidence be called original. The extant doors are in the main much later than the structure, although two (from the hall into the southwest and northwest rooms on the second floor) may be original. Their hardware, however, is of the late nineteenth century. The flooring, of inidentified wood, also appears old but not original. Pit-sawn joists are visible through the damaged ceiling of the second story; they are supported by a hewn beam running the length of the house (north and south) and resting on the hall walls.

The interior walls are slightly more than six inches thick, plastered throughout, and appear to be frame construction and original. Exceptions are the west or front wall of the modern bath (at the east end of the upstairs hall); the built-in closet in the southeast corner of the southwest room upstairs; and the present framework of the stairway, which includes a closet under the return course.

The house was occupied by tenants and renters until late in the 1960s, and has had minor alterations for forced-air heating, kitchen and bathroom plumbing, and electrical wiring, none of which was done with either great finesse or savage disregard for the past. During the years since it was vacated, the building's condition has deteriorated.

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Continuation sheet

Elk Landing Cecil County, Maryland

Item number

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The fieldstone fabric is in fair to good condition, needing pointing and restoration but not reconstruction. The roof is virtually nonexistent in a wide patch on the west side, and leaky elsewhere; water damage inside is extensive to all of the plaster and lath, and some of the timbering.

8.	Sian	ificance

CE-132

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 X 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1750-1775	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C Applicable Exception: n/a Level of Significance: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The stone house at Elk Landing is significant for its architecture, embodying several features characteristic of 18th century vernacular dwellings in northeastern Maryland and adjacent Pennsylvania. The building's fieldstone construction, approximately symmetrical massing, center-hall plan, and interior detailing are typical of the vernacular architecture of the region in the third quarter of the 19th century. The house incorporates an unusual feature in its northeast corner fireplace, which is located in an exterior corner of the room and vented at the eaves. While corner fireplaces are not uncommon in the vernacular dwellings of the period in northeastern Maryland, they typically take the form of those in the south rooms of this house, which are located back-to-back in interior corners of the rooms they serve and share a common chimney stack that exits at the ridge of the roof. This latter type is fairly common in Quaker-settled areas of Maryland, and has clear antecedents in English building tradition; exterior-corner fireplaces, however, are rare in the state. The property on which the house is located was part of an early settlement of Swedish and Finnish immigrants; local tradition associates the house with John Hanson Steelman, a Swedish-American trader who occupied the site between 1693 and 1710. Although architectural evidence points to a construction date somewhat later than Steelman's occupancy, the tradition that the former log wing (demolished ca.1905) was Steelman's original trading post may have some validity. In any event, the site of Elk Landing is significant for its association with early Scandinavian settlement in Maryland. In addition, as trade between the Scandinavian settlers and the Susquehanna Indians was carried on at the site from 1654 until the local aboriginal population disappeared (about 1720), archeological investigations might yield significant information about the cultural contact period.

For History and Supporting Documentation see Continuation Sheet No. 4

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Elk Landing

Continuation sheet Cecil County, Maryland

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Although architectural features of the building strongly suggest a date of construction in the third quarter of the 18th century, local tradition holds that the house was the residence of John Hanson Steelman (1655-1749), a prosperous Indian Trader who lived at this site between 1693 and 1710. As "Interpreter in Chief for the Northern Parts of this Province," he hosted major treaty talks in 1698 and 1700 between Maryland commissioners and Indians living near the head of Chesapeake Bay. Steelman provided through loans and gifts about one-half the total cash required for the construction of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church at Wilmington, Delaware during 1698-1699.

Steelman was born in 1655 at the Aronameck plantation on the west bank of the Schuylkill River, part of the colony known as New Sweden which had been established by Swedish immigrants in 1638.

Sometime between 1687 and 1693, John Hanson Steelman moved with his family to the Swedish and Finnish community in the fork of the Elk River in Cecil County, Maryland, known as "Sahakitko" to the Swedes and Finns. He and his son John were naturalized by Maryland in 1695. At Elk Landing, on the southeast 200 acres of a 500-acre tract known as "Successor" facing Little Elk Creek, he established a trading post to trade with the Susquehanna Indians. It is believed that the log structure, razed in 1905, which formerly abutted the stone house, may have been Steelman's original trading post.

After 1700 Steelman acquired other lands in Cecil County. On 18 October 1704, he acquired "Mount Ararat" (150 acres) on the east side of the Susquehanna River between Port Deposit and Perryville; on 13 February 1705, "Barnes Forest" (400 acres) at Octoraro Creek; on 12 September 1705, "Walnut Thicket" (200 acres) east of Conowingo Creek; by 1707 "Long Point" (100 acres) on the northwest side of Elk River; and on 14 April 1711, he obtained a patent for "Steelman's Delight" (200 acres), extending from Principio Creek westward. He established a second trading post at Octoraro Creek, closer to the principal Indian settlements, and by 1710 apparently resided at "Mount Ararat." At the time of his death in 1749, Captain Steelman (then in his 93rd year) was a resident of Lancaster (now Adams) County, Pennsylvania.

The site of Elk Landing at the head of the Elk River is significant for its association with early Swedish and Finnish settlement in Maryland.

Recorded history of this site dates back to 1655 when the Minquas (Susquehanna) Indians presented Governor Rising of New Sweden with "Chakakitque" on the Elk River and other lands in exchange for the promise that the Swedes would establish a

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Continuation sheet Cecil County, Maryland

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

trading post there. This Indian place-name became etymologized to "Sahakitko" (meaning literally "squeaky saw" in Finnish) among the Swedes and Finns and to "Successor" among the English. Contemporary maps show a Susquehanna Indian settlement at this location in the middle third of the 17th century.

Whether any Swedes or Finns settled at this location as early as 1655 has not been verified. The Swedes issued no patents to their settlers. Later that year, New Sweden was conquered by the Dutch who never laid claim to the lands given the Swedes by the Minquas. The Province of Maryland moved into the vacuum. On 12 August 1672 a patent was issued to William Price for "Price's Venture" on the north side of Elk River with rather uncertain boundaries. On February 8, 1678/9, a patent was issued to John Browning and Richard Nash for a 500-acre tract called "Successor", defined as follows:

"Successor, lying in a fork of Elk River in Cecil County beginning at a marked red oak standing on the southernmost point of said fork and from thence bounded on the Southeast with the main northeast branch of the river by a line drawn East by North one hundred and fifty perches to a marked oak standing on the river's side and from thence bounded on the northeast by a line drawn northwest six hundred and forty perches and from the end of the northwest line by a line drawn west by south one hundred and fifty perches til it intersects his Lopps (Lordship's) manor and from thence to the first bounded red oak, laid out for five hundred acres more or less."

Finally, on 21 April 1681, a further patent was issued to Nicholas Painter for a 1400-acre tract called "Friendship" on the west side of the Northeast branch of the Elk River, adjoining "Successor" at a place called "Ye Sweeds Towne."

Whether any of these patentees ever lived in the Elkton area is uncertain. The first evidence of residence is entirely Swedish and Finnish. Painter conveyed his tract "Friendship" to George Talbot who, in December 1683, agreed with three squatters on the land - Simon Johnson, Benjamin Paulson and Peter Olofson (Slubey) - to give each of them 50 acres if they built a mill on other land Talbot owned, which apparently they did. When George Talbot, in 1687, sold part of "Friendship" to Philip Lynes, the deed contained a covenant that nothing in the transfer should deprive Simon Johnson, Benjamin Paulson or Peter Olofson (son of Olof Slubey) of their respective 50 acres.

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Elk Landing

Continuation sheet Cecil County, Maryland

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Meanwhile, prior to 1700, the 500-acre tract "Successor" fronting on Little Elk Creek had passed to four other Swedes and Finns. The northernmost 100 acres was owned by Simon Johnson Jr.; the next 100-acre tract by Mathias Mathiason alias Freeman; the next 100-acre tract by Clement Clementson and the sourthernmost tract of 200 acres by John Hanson Steelman. All except Steelman were Finns or of Finnish extraction. Simon Johnson, Sr. had arrived in New Sweden in the 1650's, as had Olof (William) Slubey. The others, like John Hanson Steelman, were sons of original settlers of New Sweden.

Deeds are wanting as to when and how these Finns and Swedes acquired their lands in the fork of the Elk. Subsequent deeds, however, contain scattered references that fill in some gaps. Thus, a 1715 deed reports the fact that the 100 acres owned by Mathias Mathiason alias Freeman at the time of his death in 1702 had been purchased from Andrew Paulson (also a Finn) on 7 July 1690.

With the influx of English settlers after 1700, the Swedish and Finnish residents gradually sold out or otherwise lost their lands. Most of the settlement called "Sahakitko" by the Swedes and Fims was absorbed into the Elk Landing plantation started by Henry Hollingsworth in 1711 and expanded by his son Zebulon Hollingsworth in 1727 and 1735.

Finally, as the site was a trading point from 1654 until the local aboriginal population disappeared (about 1720), archeological investigations might yield significant information about the cultural contact period.

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Elk Landing
Continuation sheet Cecil County, Maryland

Item number

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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Cooper, Patricia Irvin, "A Quaker-Plan House in Georgia," <u>Pioneer America</u>, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1978, pp. 15-34.

Craig, Peter S. and Henry W. Yocum, "The Yocums of Aronameck in Philadelphia, 1648-1702," publication pending in the <u>National Genealogical Society</u> Quarterly, March 1984.

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Jordan, Terry G., "A reappraisal of Fenno-Scandian Antecedents for Midland American Log Construction," <u>Geographical Review</u>, Vol. 73, No. 1, January 1983, pp. 58-94.

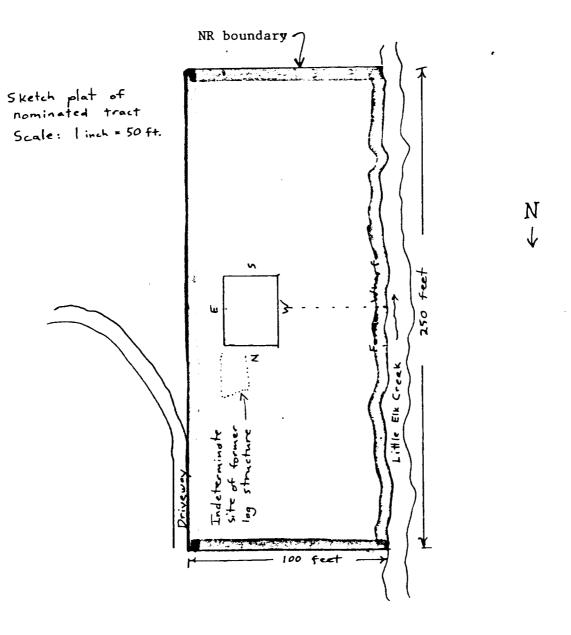
Miller, Alice E. Cecil County, Maryland, A Study in Local History (Elkton 1947).

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.

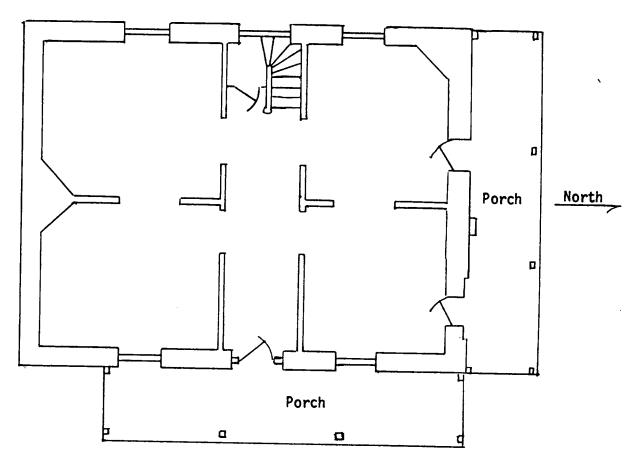
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ty or town	Arlington				Virginia 22207
2. Sta	te Histor			Office	r Certification
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CE-132 Elk Landing Cecil County, Maryland June, 1984

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY MAP

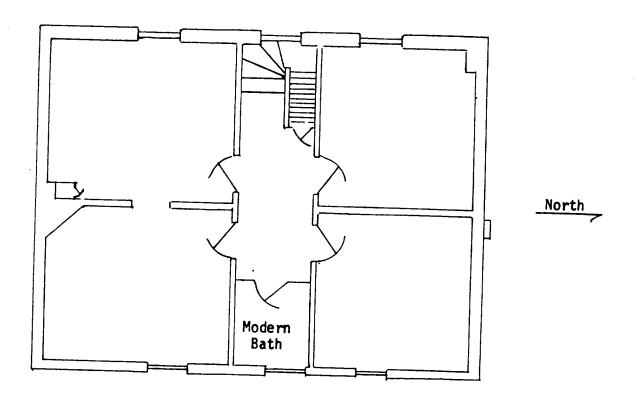


JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland 1st floor plan

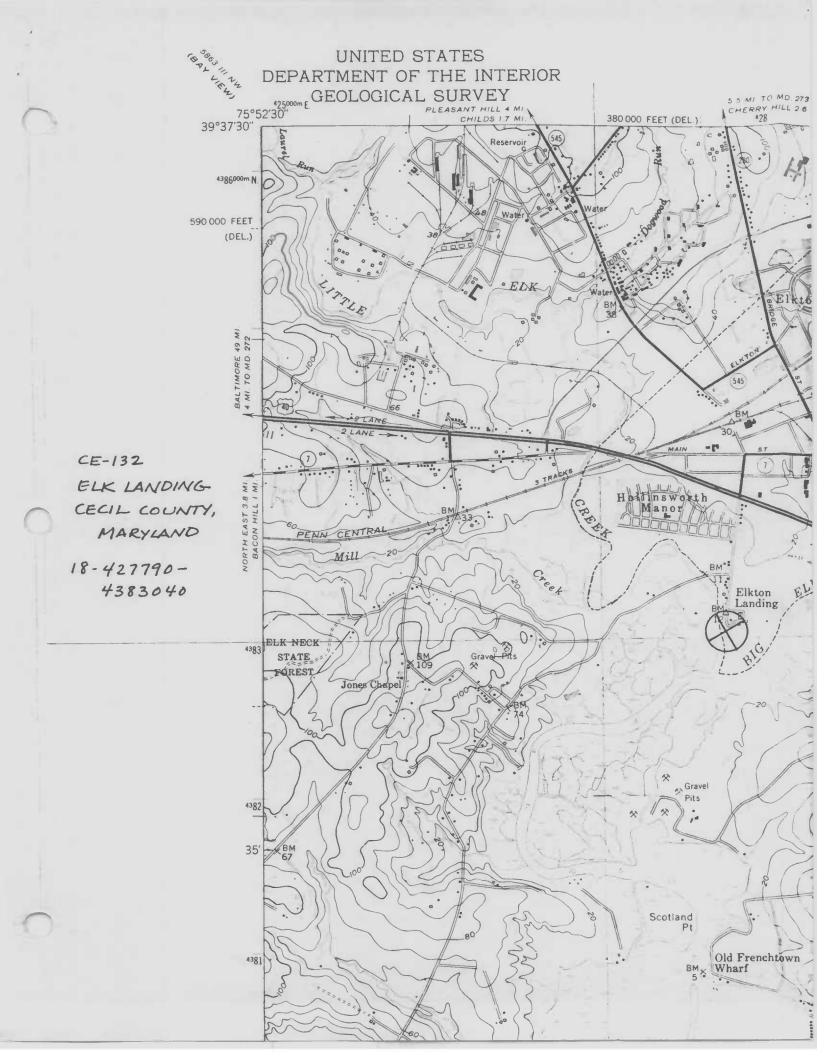


Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing.
Outside dimensions of the structure excluding porches are 28'x36'.

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland 2nd floor plan



Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing. This floor not measured; windows spaced as in photographs.



Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

State Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)
historic John Hanson Steelman House (preferred) (preferred)
historic John Hanson Steelman House (preferred) and or common. Elk Landing (name includes more than the nominated area)
2. Location : The rest of the said and the said of the said in the said of the
street & number South end of Landing Lanenot for publication
city, town Elkton! Since
state Maryland mous for any and mi ocounty Cecil of the sanitarrasis out and
3. Classification
Category Ownership Status Fresent Use districtpublicoccupiedagriculturemuseumbuilding(s)X private;
4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
name John M. Young [n.b co-owner on continuation sheet]
street & number 9312 Memorial Hwy telephone no.: (813) 884-9784
city, town Tampa state and zip code Florida 33615
5. Location of Legal Description
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Courthouse, Deeds Registry liber Deeds #5 street & number - E. Main St. folio 179-180
city, town Elkton state Maryland
6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys
title HABS Inventory #CE-132
te 4/16/68federal _x_statecountylocal depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust
city, town Annapolis state Maryland

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Survey No. CE - 132

Condition excellent good fair

X deteriorated ruins

___ unexposed

Check one unaltered X_altered

Check one _X_ original site moved date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary Description The house is two stories and a half on the east side, which has been its front at least since the late nineteenth century. It a story taller on the side that was originally the front (west), facing the creek, as its basement wall is fully above ground level (but, as always, subject to occasional flooding) on that side. The fieldstone fabric is in fair to good condition, needing pointing and restoration but not reconstruction. The roof is virtually nonexistent in a wide patch on the west side, and leaky elsewhere; water damage inside is extensive and probably irreparable to all of the plaster and lath, and some of the timbering. The structural element that relates it most specifically to the Swedish settlement of which it was the centerpiece is a "Swedish chimney" at the northwest corner, also in bad repair. The deteriorated and unsafe porches along the east and north walls should be removed. The site is unusually free from distractions at the present, being in the bend of a creek surrounded by a large farm that is inside the corporate limits of Elkton.

General Description

The John Hanson Steelman House is located in the fork of Big and Little Elk Creeks. It is the last house on Landing Lane, the thoroughfare leading southward from 11 S. 40 and serving the Hollingsworth Manor subdivision.

The house is rectangular, two stories in height with an unpartitioned full basement and an unpartitioned full garret. Both finished stories exhibit a central-hall plan, three unequal bays wide and two equal bays deep. The exterior fabric is fieldstone, very roughly quoined but not consistently coursed. The north gable end is covered in stucco of apparent nineteenth century vintage. The gabled roof is supported by massive hewn rafters that are free-standing from plate to ridge.

Badly decayed wooden porches obscure most of the ground floor on the east facade, and on the north end. A doorway in the east bay of the north wall, formerly wider than it is now, led into a separate log structure estimated at about 16 feet deep (east to west) and twenty feet wide, the original dwelling of John Hanson Steelman and later the kitchen for the stone house (which has no cooking hearth built in). Besides the reduction in the size of this doorway, the same wall has another door cut onto the porch from the west bay, probably in this century. The doorway in the center of the east facade may be original, but it is likely that the stairway was on that wall; it is clearly not in its original position. All window locations, and most of their frames, appear to be original, except that the present small window in the center bay of the west wall has been patched into what was originally the lintel of the door fronting on the creek. That doorway has been almost completely filled with later stonework, as has a wide original doorway into the basement in the south bay of the same (west) wall. [This feature very probably relates to the lading process. In Philadelphia the 1685 "Mount Wharf" house of Robert Turner was built with a deep cellar (near the river level) having direct and level access through a short tunnel to Turner's private wharf.]

The west wall of the basement has also seen substantial rebuilding in its north bay, perhaps to repair flood damage or to close another doorway whose outlines are not apparent. The northwest corner is not perceptibly quoined in its lower level, and originally have been underground. The masonry inside the basement at this point does appear to be original; it supports the northwest corner fireplace, and is identical

[continued]

The above quotation (Steelman's title) is from a letter of commissioner John Thompson recorded in the Proceedings of the Council of Maryland (L. X, f. 194) and dated June 2, 1698.

The History and Support material was prepared by Peter S. Craig and is attached on separate sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CE-132

Attached on a continuation sheet

10. Geographical	Data	X
Acreage of nominated property 3/4 Ouadrangle name Elkton UTM References do NOT complete		Quadrangle scale 1:24 000
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name/title Richard H. Hulan, PhD	Carry - a in the same of the s	
organization Delaware Valley Finni	sh Americans July	29, 1983 Mer clix
street & number 4711 N. 24th St.	of the lower of the lower is	703) 525-6537
city or town Arlington		inia 22207

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438

Continuation
4. Owner of Property

Mr. John M. Young 9312 Memorial Highway Tampa, Florida 33615

(813) 884-9784

Mr. Carleton M. Young 902 West Bay Avenue Lewes, Delaware 19958

(302) 856-7079

Mr. Wm. Wilson Bratton Attorney for John and Carleton Young 118 North Street Elkton, Maryland 21921

(301) 398-4545

(N.B. - Mr. Bratton is not a co-owner, but is the only person in Elkton with a key to the house and with authority to allow anyone onto the premises, which are guarded.)

Continuation 5. Legal Description

As a point of information it is here noted that this property has been in the Hollingsworth family continuously since 1735; therefore the cited deed is of that date. John M. Young and his son Carleton, like all the other Hollingsworth owners, inherited the Elk Landing farm. Isabel Hollingsworth Mackall Young left it to her son and grandson.

Continuation
7. General Description

The most unusual feature that is externally visible is the "Swedish chimney" over the northwest corner near the eaves. Its masonry above the ceiling of the second story, apparently a modern repair, consists of a small, nearly square brick flue, offset several inches to the east before it pierces the roof line. This does not match the stone masonry of the other, larger chimney (and of the rest of the structure). However, its position and its height above the roof are comparable to those of the corner chimneys of several contemporary Scandinavian houses in the Delaware Valley. These include the Upper and Lower Swedish (log) Cabins on Daily Creek, the Mounce Jones (stone) house at Douglassville, and the Hopewell Furrace (brick) office near Birdsboro, all in Pennsylvania.

The structure is devoid of external ornamentation intended as such.

A central hall cuts the floor plan from west to east. Doors open off this hall into two north and two south rooms. Stairs at the northwest corner of the hall turn across what was obviously the original front door; the location of the original stairway could perhaps be determined from marks under the present layers of paint

on the plastered walls.

The northwest room on the ground floor has the most formal paneling over its mantel and was perhaps the "parlor." This and the paneling over the two corner fireplaces in the south wall (all now painted in solid colors) should be examined with great care for possible overmantel paintings on the wood. The only fireplace opening on the second floor is in the southwest corner of the southeast room; it has no woodwork (though the chair rail halts as if it once did) and appears to have been modified slightly to accommodate an iron coal grate (now missing) during the late nineteenth century.

Most of the rooms have chair rails, none of which can with confidence be called original. The extant doors are in the main much later than the structure, although two (from the hall into the southwest and northwest rooms on the second floor) may be original. Their hardware, however, is of the late nineteenth century. The flooring, of unidentified wood, also appears old but not original. Pit-sawn joists are visible through the damaged ceiling of the second story; they are supported by a hewn beam running the length of the house (north to south) and resting on the hall walls.

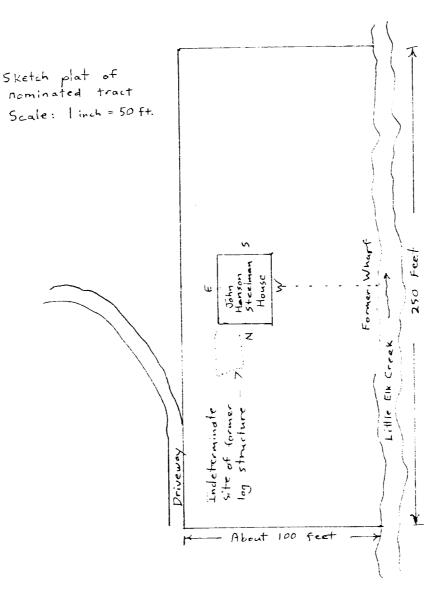
The interior walls are slightly more than six inches thick, plastered throughout, and appear to be frame construction and original. Exceptions are the west or front wall of the modern bath (at the east end of the upstairs hall); the built-in closet in the southeast corner of the southwest room upstairs; and the present framework of the stairway, which includes a closet under the return course. Some of the internal door openings may be new, relocated, enlarged, or closed since the house was built; that evidence is under paint and plaster.

The house was occupied by tenants and renters until late in the 1960s, and has had minor alterations for forced-air heating, kitchen and bathroom plumbing, and electrical wiring, none of which was done with either great finesse or savage dis-

regard for the past.

Continuation
7. Description:
Boundary justification

The east boundary is put at the common driveway that now serves the nominated property and the mid-nineteenth century Hollingsworth farm house (built on the masonry of a 1735 house that burned in 1848). That house is an income producing property and the owners do not want it included in the nomination. The west boundary is the creek, historically the "road" to the house when it was new. The land between house and creek, where goods were carried back and forth from the wharf, is potentially an archeological field. The ten yards or nore to the north of the house include the known site of an original log structure that was razed in about 1905; this, too, is an archeological site. The rest of the land to north and south is nominated to protect against too near encroachment by tract housing, sewage treatment plants or whatever the future holds. The past has been kind to the site.



Continuation 8. Significance

History and Support

Known for the first 36 years of his life as John Hansson (meaning he was John, the son of Hans) or "John Hans" for short, Steelman was born in the last year of New Sweden (1655) at the Aronameck plantation on the west bank of the Schuylkill River. His parents, Hans Månsson and Ella Olofsdotter Stille, had arrived in New Sweden on the <u>Charitas</u> in 1641. His mother had been widowed in July 1654 when her first husband, Peter Jochimson, died in New Amsterdam while on a diplomatic mission for Governor Rising.

Sometime prior to 1680, John Hans married Mary Stalcop, daughter of John Anderson Stalcop, a Swede of New Castle County. They lived initially in Burlington County, West Jersey, moving by 1687 to a tract on the east side of Red Clay Creek, New Castle County. After the death of his father around 1691, John Hans, his brothers and their mother adopted the surname "Steelman," derived from the surname of John Hans' maternal grandfather, Olof Stille.

Sometime between 1687 and 1693, John Hanson Steelman moved with his family to the Swedish and Finnish community in the fork of the Elk River in Cecil County, Maryland, known as "Sahakitko" to the Swedes and Finns. He and his son John were naturalized by Maryland in 1695. At Elk Landing, on the southeast 200 acres of a 500-acre tract known as "Successor" facing Little Elk Creek,

Steelman built a log structure which served as his trading post (razed about 1905) and nearby built the two-story field stone house with gabled roof that still stands at this location.

That John Hanson Steelman had a house at this location as early as 1697 is confirmed by contemporary records. That the stone house there today is the same house as stood there in 1697 has not yet been definitely proved. Archeological excavations of the earthen basement floor have been recommended to verify its indicated construction in the 1690s. Given Steelman's wealth and the fact that his house provided overnight accommodations for groups of four or more visiting dignitaries on several occasions between 1697 and 1700, it seems likely that the stone house had been built at this location prior to that time.

To the eye, the John Hanson Steelman house is more primitive than its look-alike, the Mountz Jones house (built in 1716) at Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania. That the Mountz Jones house seems to be built from the same ground plan as the John Hanson Steelman house may be more than coincidental. Mountz Jones (1663-1728) was the brother-in-law of Peter Peterson Yocum (1653-1702), Steelman's half-brother, and the three of them were well acquainted.

The John Hanson Steelman house is a prime candidate for restoration to its original appearance. The thick exterior walls, similar in construction to the walls of Old Swedes Church in Wilmington (built in 1698) are in sound condition and the interior corner fire-

places are of classic Swedish colonial design. More recent exterior additions (a chimney and two deteriorating wooden porches) should be removed and the original main entrance (on the west side facing Little Elk Creek) should be reopened. Rather substantial restoration work would be required for the interior which has seen substantial modifications through the years and is now in deteriorating condition.

The site of the John Hanson Steelman house has been unspoiled and probably looks much the same today as it did in the 1690s when Steelman first moved onto his 200-acre tract at "Successor." Nearby, to the northeast of the John Hanson Steelman house stands an 18th century house (substantially modified after a fire in the 19th century) built by Zebulon Hollingsworth who in 1735 acquired Steelman's former property. According to Hollingsworth descendants, the Steelman house was standing on the property at that time. The property has remained in the ownership of Hollingsworth descendants ever since 1735. After construction of the Hollingsworth house (now occupied by an overseer of the property), the Steelman house was used as an inn. Later it was used as a private residence. Since 1968 it has been vacant.

Recorded history of this site dates back to 1655 when the Minquas (Susquehanna) Indians presented Governor Rising of New Sweden with "Chakakitque" on the Elk River and other lands in

exchange for the promise that the Swedes would establish a trading post there. This Indian place-name became etymologized to "Sahakitko" (meaning literally "squeaky saw" in Finnish) among the Swedes and Finns and to "Successor" among the English.

Contemporary maps show a Susquehanna Indian settlement at this location in the middle third of the 17th century.

Whether any Swedes or Finns settled at this location as early as 1655 has not been verified. The Swedes issued no patents to their settlers. Later that year, New Sweden was conquered by the Dutch who never laid claim to the lands given the Swedes by the Minquas. The Province of Maryland moved into the vacuum. On 12 August 1672 a patent was issued to William Price for "Price's Venture" on the north side of Elk River with rather uncertain boundaries. On February 8, 1678/9, a patent was issued to John Browning and Richard Nash for a 500-acre tract called "Successor", defined as follows:

"Successor, lying in a fork of Elk River in Cecil County beginning at a marked red oak standing on the southernmost point of said fork and from thence bounded on the Southeast with the main northeast branch of the river by a line drawn East by North one hundred and fifty perches to a marked oak standing on the river's side and from thence bounded on the northeast by a line drawn northwest six hundred and forty perches and from the end of the northwest line by a line drawn west by south one hundred and fifty perches till it intersects his Lopps [Lordship's] manor and from thence to the first bounded red oak, laid out for five hundred acres more or less."

Continuation 8. Significance (p. 5)

Finally on 21 April 1681 a further patent was issued to Nicholas

Painter for a 1400-acre tract called "Friendship" on the west

side of the Northeast branch of the Elk River, adjoining "Successor" at a place called "Ye Sweeds Towne."

Whether any of these patentees ever lived in the Elkton area is uncertain. The first evidence of residence is entirely Swedish and Finnish. Painter conveyed his tract "Friendship" to George Talbot who in December 1683 agreed with three squatters on the land -- Simon Johnson, Benjamin Paulson and Peter Olofson (Slubey) -- to give each of them 50 acres if they built a mill on other land Talbot cwned, which apparently they did. When George Talbot in 1687 sold part of "Friendship" to Philip Lynes, the deed contained a covenant that nothing in the transfer should deprive Simon Johnson, Benjamin Paulson or Peter Olofson (son of Olof Slubey) of their respective 50 acres.

Meanwhile, prior to 1700, the 500-acre tract "Successor" fronting on Little Elk Creek had passed to four other Swedes and Finns. The northern-most 100 acres was owned by Simon Johnson Jr.; the next 100-acre tract by Mathias Mathiason alias Freeman; the next 100-acre tract by Clement Clementson and the southern-most tract of 200 acres by John Hanson Steelman. All except Steelman were Finns or of Finnish extraction. Simon Johnson Sr. had arrived in New Sweden in the 1650's, as had Olof (William) Slubey. The others, like John Hanson Steelman, were sons of original settlers of New Sweden.

Deeds are wanting as to when and how these Finns and Swedes acquired their lands in the fork of the Elk. Subsequent deeds, however, contain scattered references that fill in some gaps.

Thus a 1715 deed reports the fact that the 100 acres owned by Mathias Mathiason alias Freeman at the time of his death in 1702 had been purchased from Andrew Paulson (also a Finn) on 7 July 1690.

With the influx of English settlers after 1700, the Swedish and Finnish residents gradually sold out or otherwise lost their lands. Most of the settlement called "Sahakitko" by the Swedes and Finns was absorbed into the Elk Landing plantation started by Henry Hollingsworth and expanded by his son Zebulon Hollingsworth.

On 7 May 1711, Henry Hollingsworth of Chester County, Pennsylvania, surveyor, purchased a 50-acre portion of "Friendship" from William Slubey of New Castle (apparently the brother of Peter Olofson), this being one of the three 50-acre parcels that Talbot had reserved for the three Finns lying adjacent to "Successor." On 8 December 1715, Hollingsworth acquired 15 acres of "Successor" from Gabriel Clementson, son of Clement Clementson. On 24 January 1720/1, he acquired Clementson's remaining 85 acres. The deed described Clementson's land as then being bounded on the southeast by "John Hansteelman's plantation."

After Henry Hollingsworth's death, his son Zebulon expanded these holdings, acquiring on 31 January 1727 Benjamin Paulson's share of the three Finns' tract (claimed by Paulson to be 100 acres -- his fifty plus Peter Olofson Slubey's fifty). The circumstances by which John Hanson Steelman's 200 acres passed to the Hollingsworth family

named John Campbell discovered that about 75 acres of Steelman's tract, including the land occupied by the house, was also included within the earlier patent for "Price's Venture." Campbell purchased these 75 acres and resold them to Zebulon Hollingsworth on 20 November 1735. The deed conveyed:

"all that part of one moiety or half part of a tract of land called Price's Venture which lyeth on the north side of Elk River and in a Fork of the same River containing by estimation seventy-five acres of land or thereabouts, it being the northernmost part or end of the one moiety or half part of the same land called Price's Venture which by sundry massne conveyances and mutations of possession became the estate of the same John Campbell which moiety by the long possession thereof and other circumstances and agreements made time out of mind hath always been deemed to be the eastermost [sic] moiety of the same tract of land called Price's Venture," etc.

As the patent for "Price's Venture" was older than the patent for "Successor", it would have prevailed in any dispute over title to John Hanson Steelman's property at Elk Landing.

After 1700 Steelman acquired other lands in Cecil County.

On 18 October 1704, he acquired "Mount Ararat" (150 acres) on the east side of the Susquehannah River between Port Deposit and Perryville; on 13 February 1705, "Barnes Forest" (400 acres) at Octoraro Creek; on 12 September 1705, "Walnut Thicket" (200 acres) east of Conowingo Creek; by 1707 "Long Point" (100 acres) on the northwest side of Elk River; and on 14 April 1711, he obtained a patent for "Steelman's Delight" (200 acres), extending from Principio Creek

Continuation 8. Significance (p. 8)

westward. He established a second trading post at Octoraro Creek, closer to the principal Indian settlements, and by 1710 apparently resided at "Mount Ararat." Presumably his "Successor" plantation at Elk Landing was then occupied by one of his children or was being rented out. At the time of his death in 1749, Captain Steelman (then in his 93rd year) was a resident of Lancaster (now Adams) County, Pennsylvania.

Continuation
9. Major Bibliographical
 References

Peter S. Craig and Henry W. Yocom, "The Yocums of Aronameck in Philadelphia, 1648-1702," publication pending in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, March 1984 [manuscript copy attached]

as supplemented by:

Archives of Maryland, vols. 19, 23, 25, 27, 28, 38.

Maryland Patents, Liber 21, folios 88-89; Liber 17, folios 327-28.

Cecil County Deed Books 2, 3, 5.

Cecil County Rent Roll (1707), Calvert Papers, Maryland Historical Society

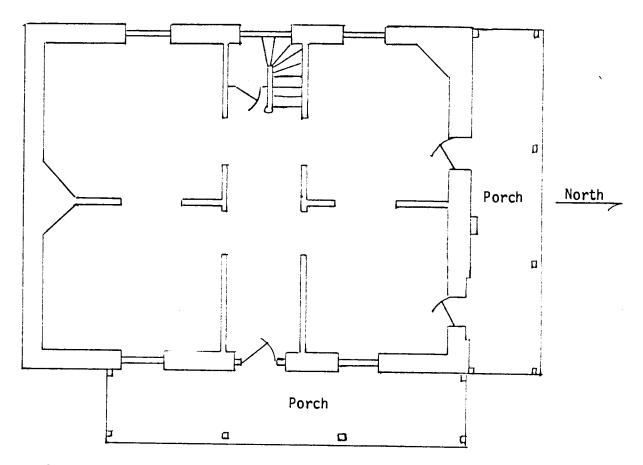
Hollingsworth Papers, Maryland Historical Society

Elk Landing collection, Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton, Md.

George Johnston, History of Cecil County, Maryland (Elkton 1881)

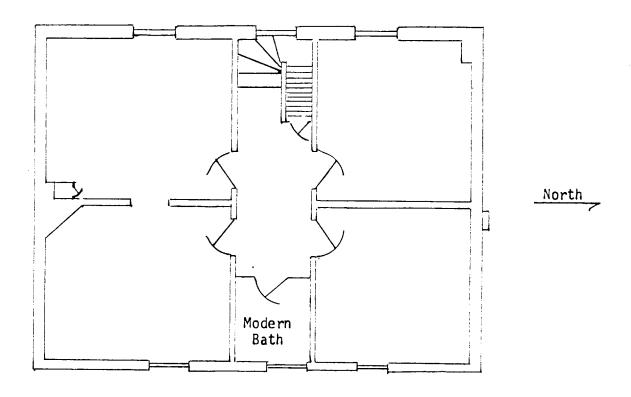
Alice E. Miller, <u>Cecil County</u>, <u>Maryland</u>, <u>A Study in Local History</u> (Elkton 1947)

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland lst floor plan



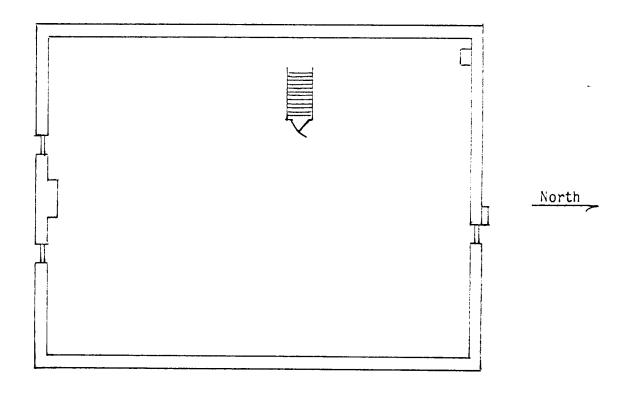
Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing.
Outside dimensions of the structure excluding porches are 28'x36'.

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland 2nd floor plan



Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing. This floor not measured; windows spaced as in photographs.

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE, Cecil County, Maryland 3rd floor (garret) plan



Scale 1/8" = 1 foot, slightly enlarged by Xeroxing. Window size and placement from photographs.

(5/62)

Form 10-445 1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Cecil County

TOWN Elyton VICINITY Elkhanding STREET NO.

ORIGINAL OWNER

ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER M. George Blake

PRESENT USE dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION field stowe NO. OF STORIES 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY CE-132

2. NAME EIK LANDING

DATE OR PERIOD 18th Century BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC No

At Elk Landing is a three bay long, two story field stone structure which is a full story taller on the water side of the house. The size of the windows accommodate 6/9 sash on the first floor and 6/6 on the second floor (some have been replaced with differing sash). There is a central door approached through a screened porch and there is another porch on the north gable. Chimneys are placed in the south gable and the northwest corner and a new one on the outside of the north gable which has been stuccoed. The center door on the river side has been partially blocked up and now serves as a window.

MARKER: SITE OF FORT HOLLINGSWORTH

ABOUT THREE TENTHS MILESOUTH AT ELK LANDING. AMERICAN FORCES HERE AND AT FORT DEFIANCE ABOUT ONE MILE BELOW ON ELK RIVER, REPULSED THE BRITISH UNDER ADMIRAL COCKBURN IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE ELKTOIN. APRIL 29, 1813.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered No Exterior

tax map . John M. Young etal. mos 4/10

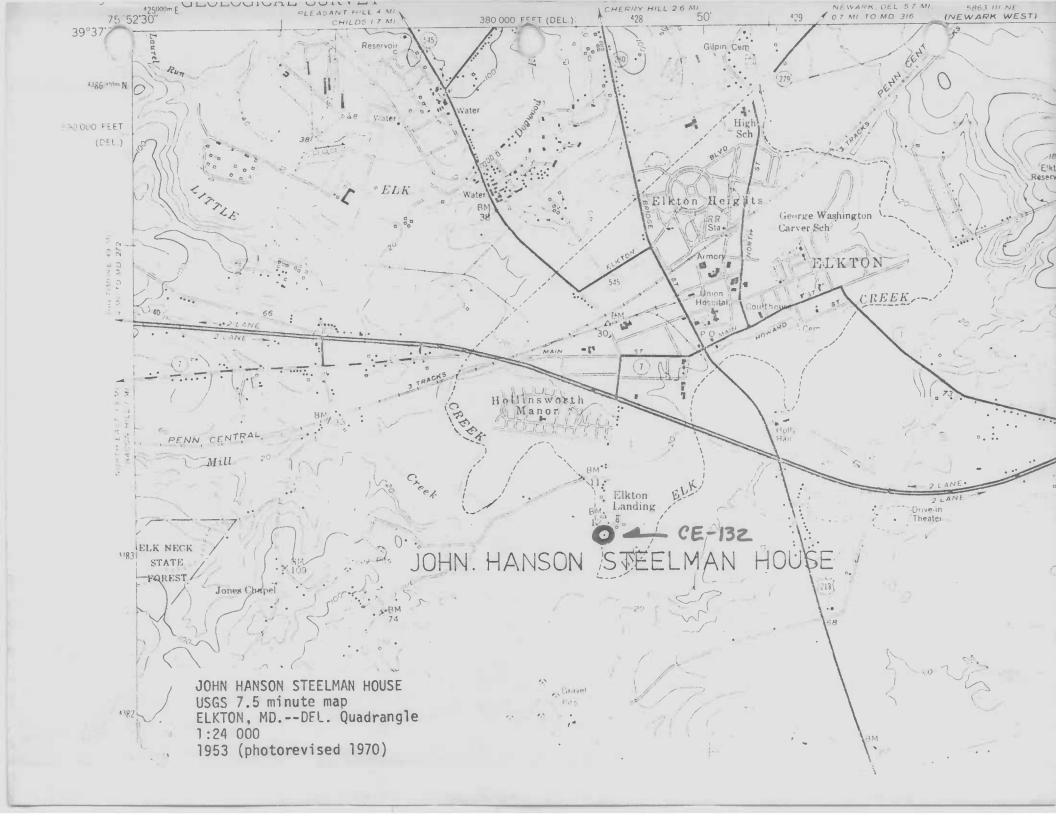
6. LOCATION MAP (Plon Optional)

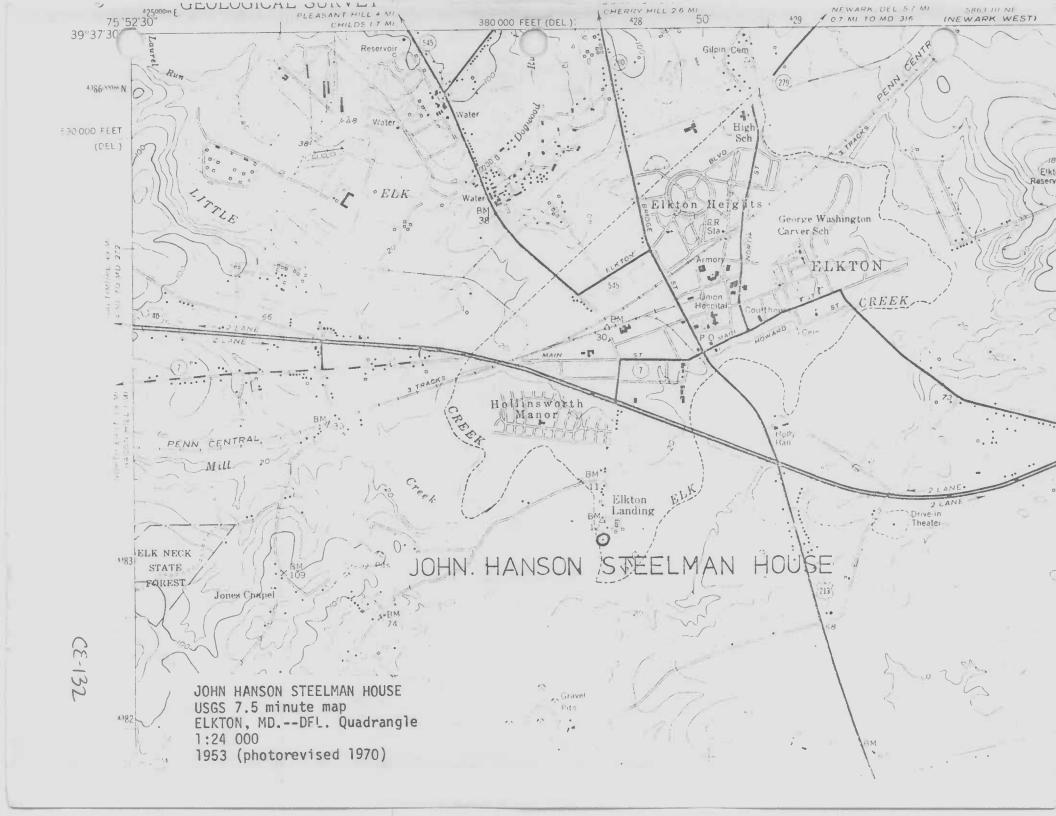
7. PHOTOGRAPH Colo 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Michael Bourne Manyland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD April 16, 1968









JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD Richard H. Hulan photo April 17, 1983 Negative at MHT South gable wall and east front; photographer faced northwest from the edge of a cornfield #2 of 9

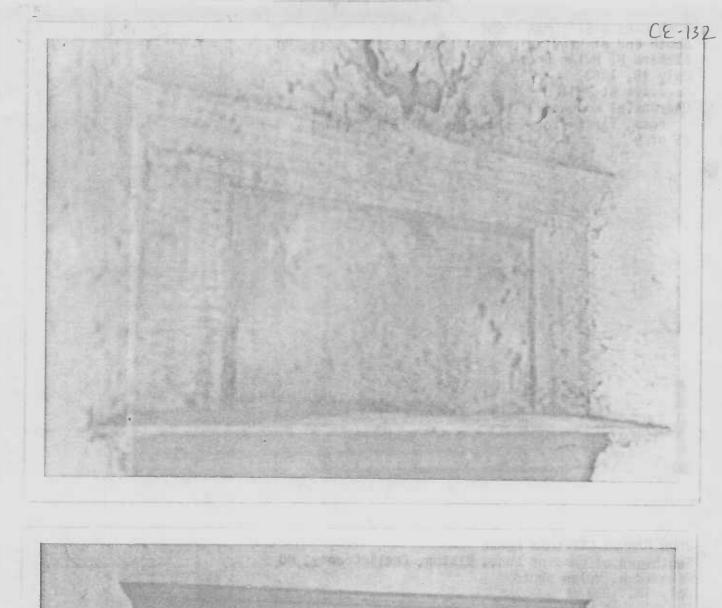
JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
West front (originally the front of the house, facing
the creek); photographer faced east by southeast
from near the edge of the creek
#4 of 9





JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
April 17, 1983
Negative at MHT
View of the site and structure; photographer facing
south by southwest; original orientation of the
house was toward Little Elk Creek, which is
tidal (and was navigable) to this point; a
barge manufactory was operated about 150 yards
north of the house until 1919
#1 of 9

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD Richard H. Hulan photo July 18, 1983 Negative at MHT North gable wall and west front; photographer faced southeast #3 of 9

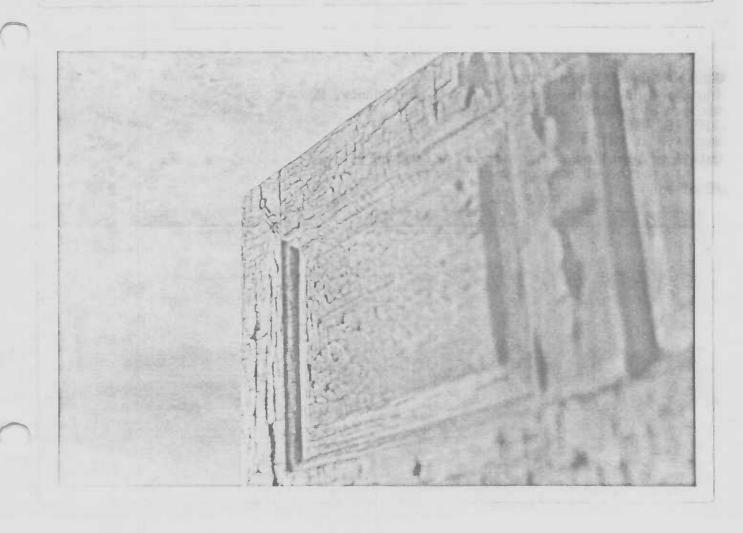




JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD Richard H. Hulan photo July 18, 1983 Negative at MHT Overmantel woodwork, corner fireplace, northwest room, first story (probable original parlor) #5 of 9

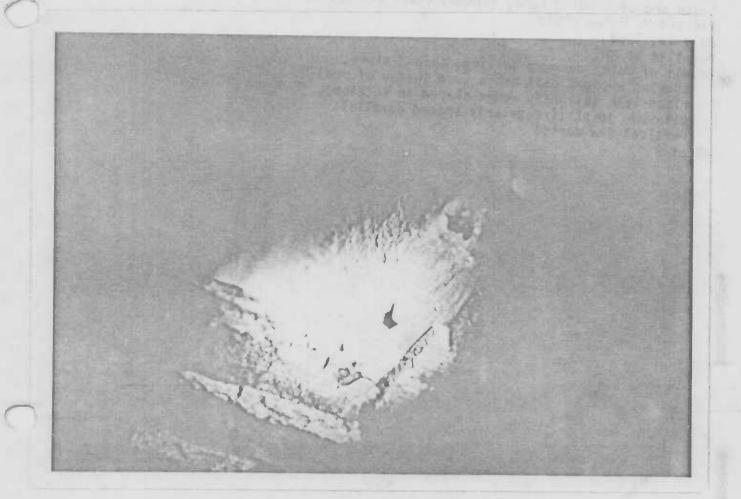
JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Corner fireplace and overmantel paneling, southwest
room, first story; the mantel shelf and two
brackets are modern
#6 of 9





JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD Richard H. Hulan photo July 18, 1983 Negative at MHT Corner fireplace opening, southeast room, second story #7 of 9

JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Detail of paneling and joinery of door from hallway
into northwest room on second story
#8 of 9



JOHN HANSON STEELMAN HOUSE
South end of Landing Lane, Elkton, Cecil County, MD
Richard H. Hulan photo
July 18, 1983
Negative at MHT
Detail of water-damaged ceiling, second story,
showing wrought nail heads (and shadow of one),
riven lath (slightly wedge-shaped in section),
pit-sawn joist (irregularly spaced parallel
vertical saw marks)
#9 of 9



209 451 1-aRS MD 8-EZKHO 12-1 STENE (60. at



EIK Landing
Near Elhton
Paul Tovart 4/79
Negatives at MHT
Mandanson Stelmanhee.



ELK LANDING ELKTON, Md. EASTERN ELEV ATTION

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CE-132 EIK Landing



CE-132 Elk Landing



CE-132 Elk Linding



CE-132 EIK Landing



CE-132 Elk Landing

PRODUCTION FOR

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